FAMILY OF SOF MACHINE GUNS

2003 JOINT SERVICES SMALL ARMS SYMPOSIUM

Mr. Troy Smith

FAMILY OF SOF MACHINE GUNS

- **MK46 (5.56mm LMG)/MK48 (7.62mm LMG) provide USSOCOM with a "Little Brother/Big Brother" that provides for Ergonomic and Parts Commonality**

MK46 MOD0

MK48 MOD0

FAMILY OF SOF MACHINE GUNS

MK46 MOD0 - Lightweight Variant of the M249

- Manufactured by FNMI
- Weighs 27% less than the M249
- 80% M249 Parts Commonality
- Interoperable with the USSOCOM SOPMOD Kit
- 100K Receiver Life
- 9,700 MRBS
- FOC reached in JULY 01
- Crane IDIQ Contract valid until JUNE 05

NAVSEA CRANE
Surface Warfare Center Division

Why a 7.62mm LMG?

U.S. Special Operations Command
SOF WEAPONS

- **The current 7.62mm Machine Gun within the NSW Inventory (M60/MK43) has proven to be less than reliable, NSW users have lost confidence in the weapon and the weapon is becoming logistically unsupportable.**

- **USSOCOM approved a MNS/ORD on 21 March 2001 for a new Lightweight 7.62mm Machine Gun (LMG).**

What is a MK48 MOD0 LMG?

"Big Brother" to the MK46 (5.56mm LMG)

- Weighs 34% less than the M240B
- 70% Parts Commonality between MK46, M249 and M240
- Interoperable with the USSOCOM SOPMOD Kit
- 100K Receiver Life
- 11,500 MRBS
- FUE scheduled for AUG 03
- Crane IDIQ Contract valid through MAR 07

MK48 MOD0 Program
"A USSOCOM Small Arms Success Story"

~~Roadmap to Succ~~

Secret to Success

Operator Involvement

Acquisition Secret

Operator Involvement

- Early Market Research
- IPT with Developers to draft Performance Specification
- Operational Assessment(s)
- Prioritize Weapon Improvements
- Developer and Industry to determine Logistic Support Approach
- Future System Improvements

MK48 MOD0 Program
"A USSOCOM Small Arms Success Story"

Roadmap to Success

- Streamlined Acquisition
- Up-Front Operator/Developer/Industry Involvement
- "Fly before You Buy" Test Strategy
- Weapon/Vendor Performance

Streamlined Acquisition

- FY02 New Start/Sponsored by USSOCOM (PEO-SP)
- Issued Competitive Solicitation on 27 Sep 01
- Product Samples received on 1 Mar 02
- 5 Year IDIQ Contract (N00164-02-D-0024) awarded to FNMI on 8 Mar 02
- Disciplined Test Process
- FUE scheduled for Aug 2003
- Contract also provides for Cradle to Grave Sustainment

Fly before You Buy

- Test / Analyze / Fix / Test
  - Product Samples
    - Initial Safety Evaluation
    - Initial Operator Assessment
    - Initial Developmental Testing
  - IPT Operator/Developer/FNMI analyze Test Results, propose Fixes
  - LRIP Units
    - Streamlined Operator Assessment
    - Streamlined Developmental Testing

MK48 MOD0 Performance

	Objective	Threshold	Actual
Ammunition (KPP)	7.62mm X 51	7.62mm X 51	7.62mm X 51
Weight (lbs)	18	21	18
Length	40.0”	45.0”	39.5”
			34.6”
Interoperability w/SOPMOD (# Rails)	4	3	5
Service Life (# rds)	100K	50K	>100K
Barrel Life (# rds)	25K	10K	>25K
Reliability (MRBS)	8K	4K	

MK48 MOD0 Program
"A USSOCOM Small Arms Success Story"

- Involve Operator at all Levels
- Streamlined Acquisition wherever possible
- Fly before You Buy
  - Innovative Testing Strategy
  - Conduct Operational Assessments Early and Often
- MK48 MOD0 met or exceeded all ORD Requirements
- MK48/MK46: Big Brother/Little Brother

Possible Opportunities

- **MK46/MK48 Suppressors via FMBS Program**
- **“Semi Rigid” Ammunition Containers**
- **Durable Blank Firing**

"The Bottom Line"

“Harnessing the Power of Technology for the Warfighter”

Presentation presented by:

Troy Smith (PM-SOF Weapons)

- Code 4081, Building 2521, ATTN: SOF Weapons
- Email: smith_troy@crane.navy.mil
- Commercial Phone: (812) 854-5858
- Commercial Fax: (812) 854-1044